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Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Czeslaw WIECKOWSKI (Poland)

Addendum

C. Implementation in areas requiring urgent action

3. Means of implementation

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraph 98 of section C.3 of the proposed outcome of the special session (A/S-19/14-E/1997/60, section I.B) at its ___th meeting on ___ June 1997.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendment and recommended the section to the special session for adoption.

(a) Paragraph 98 was revised to read:

"Access to information and broad public participation in decision-making are fundamental to sustainable development. Further efforts are required to promote, in the light of country-specific conditions, the integration of environment and development policies, through appropriate legal and regulatory policies, instruments and enforcement mechanisms at the national, state, provincial and local levels. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in the communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. Governments and legislators, with the support, where appropriate, of competent international

organizations, should establish judicial and administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy of actions affecting environment and development

that may be unlawful or infringe on rights under the law, and should provide access to individuals, groups and organizations with a recognized legal interest. Access should be provided to effective judicial and administrative channels for affected individuals and groups to ensure that all authorities, both national and local, and other civil organizations remain accountable for their actions in accordance with their obligations, at the appropriate levels for the country concerned, taking into account the judicial and administrative systems of the country concerned."